

## DDAA Supports Army Lean Manufacturing Initiative

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Committed to providing outstanding customer service, Defense Distribution Depot Anniston, AL (DDAA) will soon take on additional responsibilities to support the Anniston Army Depot (ANAD).

ANAD, a subordinate of the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), is the only Army depot capable of performing maintenance on both heavy and light-tracked combat vehicles and their components.

In a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed in March, Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC), TACOM, and the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) agreed that DDAA would take over the functions of

receiving, storing, kitting and issuing of parts required for the repair of reciprocating engine lines at ANAD. The parts will be supplied by DSCC. DDAA will package and assemble specialized kits to be used on ANAD production lines.

This agreement was initiated by the Army's implementation of a Lean Manufacturing initiative in 2002. Designed to streamline the production processes at Army depots and arsenals, the Lean Manufacturing initiative allows for a significant reduction in lead time and cost for the overhaul programs on Army systems. This new, innovative way of doing business will allow ANAD to concentrate

*Defense  
Distribution  
Depot  
Anniston,  
Alabama  
(DDAA).*



their efforts on repair programs.

"We are happy to have the opportunity to support our local customer and to tailor our operations to meet their needs," said LTC Kevin Kahley, USA, DDAA Commander.

Fourteen new employees have been hired at DDAA to perform the new kitting operations.

## DDC Commits to Improving Processes for Customer's Items

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Commander BG Kathleen M. Gainey, USA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Navy's Inventory Control Point (NAVICP), representing DDC's commitment to providing top-quality customer service by identifying areas of improvement. "DDC is working very closely with all of our customers to find ways that we can better support them, and this Memorandum of Understanding details the responsibilities of each activity as we look to the future in support of America's Warfighters," said BG Gainey.

In November 2002, the Navy asked DDC for assistance in reconciling open Stock In Transit (SIT) inventory records—files that did not indicate a fully successful delivery to the NAVICP's final destination. At that time, the number of open records was near 6,400, representing about \$232 million dollars worth of Navy inventory.

In an aggressive effort, DDC researched the open records by combing through

hundreds of documents. By January 2004, DDC was able to reduce the number of open records to 1,591, totaling \$80 million, a 65 percent reduction.

While researching the open records, DDC was also able to identify areas along the supply chain that contributed to the Navy's long list of open records. "As materiel is routed from the ICP (Inventory Control Point), to DDC for distribution, and then through the transportation network that carries the materiel to the customer, we found a few areas of difficulty including miscommunication among each activity's inventory system," said DDC Supply Management Specialist Dave Olenick. "If DDC receives a Navy item, but the Navy's system does not recognize the message from our system, it looks (to Navy) as if we never received that item."

To improve system tracking, a new Navy SIT Supply Discrepancy Report web-based system was developed and System Change Requests for DDC's Distribution Standards



*DDC is successfully partnering with Navy customers to speed the resolution of Stock In Transit Supply Discrepancy Reports.*

System were written and implemented to interface with the Navy to be able to link the two and improve communication among the systems.

"DDC is glad to be part of this effort that will continue to work to identify both system and operational improvements," said BG Gainey.

The MOU was signed on January 30, 2004, by DDC Commander BG Gainey and NAVICP Commander RDML Mark D. Harnitcheck.